



FEBRUARY THEME  
**BEHIND THE  
SCENES**

**BIBLE STORY**

**Luke 10:25-37**

Roadside Assistance | The Good Samaritan  
Spark Story Bible | pg. 360-365

**BOTTOM LINE**

Love others because they matter to God

**MEMORY VERSE**

“Here is what love is. It is not that we loved God. It is that he loved us and sent his Son to give his life to pay for our sins.”

1 John 4:10, NIRV

**LIFE APP**

Love | Choosing to treat others the way you want to be treated

**BASIC TRUTH**

I should treat others the way I want to be treated

**FOR LEADERS ONLY**

**GOD VIEW:** the connection between **LOVE** and God’s character, as shown through God’s big story

**This WEEK:** We finish the month in **Luke 10:25-37**. When Jesus told the Pharisee’s “Love your neighbor as you love yourself,” they shot back with another question. “Who is my neighbor?” Jesus went on to tell the story of the Good Samaritan. When faced with the decision to ignore an enemy or have compassion, the Samaritan chose to set aside his differences and show love.

**Bottom Line:** **Love others because they matter to God.** We won’t always get along with everyone we meet, but that doesn’t mean they aren’t deserving of God’s love. Through this story, we pray that kids will see that all people matter to God, and we should show God’s love to everyone we meet.

**SOCIAL: PROVIDING TIME FOR FUN INTERACTION**

Welcome kids and spend time engaging in conversation and catching up. Get ready to experience today’s story.

Before kids arrive, **PRAY** for each regular attendee by name. Pray for those who might visit your group for the first time. Each and every person matters because he or she was made by God. Pray for the kids who tend to have a hard time being loving and kind to others. Pray that God would change their hearts and open their eyes to a world in need of God’s love.

•• **EARLY ARRIVER IDEA**

**What You Need:** No supplies needed

**What You Do:**

- Talk about favorite moments in movies involving road trips, driving, or car chases. For example: when Doc teaches Lightning to drift through the turns in Cars, when Kermit and Fozzie set out to drive their Studebaker across the country in The Muppet Movie, or when the T-Rex is chasing the Jeep in Jurassic Park.

•• **I’M GOING ON A TRIP**

**What You Need:** No supplies needed

**What You Do:**

- Gather kids in a circle.
- Explain that the group will take turns listing things you could take on a trip. The trick is that each thing has to start with the next letter of the alphabet.
- For added difficulty, you can add a category if you wish. In the below example the category would be animals.



• For example:

—The first person might say, “We are going on a trip and we are taking an aardvark.”

—The next person would add something that starts with the letter B. “We are going on a trip and we are taking an aardvark and a billy goat.”

—The next person would add something that starts with the letter C. “We’re going on a trip and we’re taking an aardvark, a billy goat, and a cat.”

• Keep going until someone can’t remember the whole list or can’t think of something to take.

**What You Say:** “We talked about things we would want to take on a trip. Sometimes trips turn out great. Sometimes trips turn out terrible. **[Transition] In Large Group Worship/WOW Family Worship we are going to hear/we heard about someone who had a terrible trip, but in the end it turned out better than he could have hoped.**”

*[Sunday Leaders: Lead your group to the Family Room for Large Group Worship. Wednesday Leaders: Continue with the study.]*

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## GROUPS: CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT

Create a safe place to connect and learn how the Bible story applies to real life experiences, through interactive activities and discussion questions.

•• **WHO IS YOUR NEIGHBOR?** *(application activity / review the Bible story)*

**What You Need:** A large piece of butcher paper, markers

**What You Do:**

• On the butcher paper, ask the kids to make a list of people they like in the center of the paper: friends, teachers, family members, coaches, or anyone they like.

• When they are finished, draw a big heart around all of these people.

• Then in the middle write: “The Samaritan.” On the outside of the circle, write: “The Traveler.”

• Point out that the Samaritan and the traveler were not in each other’s groups. They weren’t friends.

• Ask kids if they can think of anyone who’s “outside” their own circle. *(Remind them not to name names. Guide them not to gossip about anyone, but to have a serious conversation about their circle and who they consider “in” it or “out” of it.)* Ask if anyone would like to share about a time when they remember treating someone differently because they were outside the circle.

**What You Say:** “In the story Jesus told, he wants us to be like the Samaritan. The traveler who got robbed was outside of the Samaritan’s circle of people he would be expected to love and to help. The people in the circle are people who are like us or who LIKE us. They’re our friends, family members, older kids who we think are cool, and people who go to this church. These are the people anyone would expect us to love.

“But the traveler was someone NO ONE would have expected the Samaritan to help. It’s good to do good things for people we like, for people who are like us, and for people who are kind to us. But that’s not what this story is about. The kind of love Jesus is talking about is when we love people OUTSIDE our circle of love. We should love people who it would be ‘normal’ for us to dislike, like the kid who’s constantly pushing others around and making kids do what he wants them to do, or the kid who you just have nothing in common with and haven’t really ever played with. We aren’t supposed to just love others because we like them or they like us. We are supposed to **[Bottom Line] love others because they matter to God.** And everyone you will EVER meet matters to God!”

•• **CELEBRITY PHOTOGRAPHS** *(application activity)*



**What You Need:** Cell phone with camera (*optional*)

**What You Do:**

- Form two teams and have them face each other at a distance of about six feet.
- Ask one team to strike an appropriate pose as if they were a famous movie celebrity at a photo shoot. Have them freeze, and tell them they'll need to remember how they posed.
- Give the other team about 30 seconds to look at the kids who are posing. Tell them to photograph each "celebrity" by snapping a picture in their mind of how each person looks.
- When the time is up, have the "photographers" turn around and close their eyes (*or leave the room*) as each of the "celebrities" quietly makes one change to their appearance. The changes must be noticeable but not obvious. For example, they can't change things in their pockets, but they can untie a shoe, take off a bracelet, or stand in a slightly different pose.
- Next, have the other team open their eyes and turn around (*or return to the room*). Tell them to take a look at the "celebrities" and try to spot what's different with each person.
- Optional: Use a cell phone to take a pic of each "celebrity" before they make any changes. Use the photos to compare with the second pose.
- When all of the differences have been found, let teams switch roles and repeat.

**What You Say:** "Great celebrity poses, you guys! You may not be big-shot producers or Hollywood movie stars, but you're all 'celebrities' to God. Our great God celebrates YOU because you are made in God's image. In our game, you tried to look for any little thing that was different about the kids who were doing their celebrity poses. That's fun to do in a game, but when it comes to real life, we need to look at others the way the Samaritan did. Instead of focusing on the things that are different about others or getting all hung up on what we don't like about someone, we need to **[Bottom Line] love others because they matter to God.**"

"Far greater than all of the things that make us different from others are the things that make us the same. One huge thing everyone has in common is that we are ALL made in God's image. God LOVES every single person you'll ever meet because we are all MADE by God. When God created each person, God included some things that make us unique. God did it on purpose. It's part of God's perfect plan. So, this week, instead of looking for or focusing on that one tiny thing that's different about a kid at school or others you meet, remember to think of them as one of God's celebrities that God loves as much as God loves you."

●● **BIBLE BANDAGES** (*memory verse activity*)

**What You Need:** Bibles, "Bible Bandages" activity pages, pens, scissors, tape

**What You Do:**

- Form two teams, and give each team a "Bible Bandages" activity page, pens, scissors, and tape.
- Ask teams to cut out the bandages and then write out 1 John 4:10 by putting a few words on each one. They will need to use all 12 of their bandages. Kids can refer to their Bibles to make sure they have the verse written correctly.
- As groups work on this, ask the following discussion questions:
  - In what ways does Jesus' death break down the barriers between people and make everyone equal?
  - What words in 1 John 4:10 do you think are the most important? Why?
  - When you look back on this past week, did you act like you really believe God created everyone equal and loves each of us the same? What's one way you could live that out better this next week?
  - How does it make your life different if you show someone love who you wouldn't normally show love to? How does it make other person's life different? Try to be as specific as you can.
- When teams have finished preparing their bandages, have them each tape several onto their arms, legs, head, or any appropriate spot they want.
- Finish up by having teams race to say 1 John 4:10. The only words a kid can say are the ones written on the bandages he's wearing.
- Repeat as time allows, giving teams several chances to win.

